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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

PORT MEDICAL OFFICER

For the Year 1949

BY

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.

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*Public Health Department,  
Town Hall, Workington,  
February, 1950.*



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## MEMBERS OF THE WORKINGTON PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

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Mr. J. R. DAVIS (Chairman).

Mr. C. BAIRD.

Mr. A. HALL.

,, E. BARRACLOUGH.

,, J. POOLE.

,, A. V. CATTRELL.

,, W. ROE.

,, J. DOGGART.

,, D. VICKERS.

Mr. S. WALKER.

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JOHN R. COCKFIELD, *Clerk to the Authority.*

R. W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.,  
*Port Medical Officer of Health.*

R. E. FLETCHER, M.B., CH.B.,  
*Deputy Port Medical Officer.*

R. JAMES, *Port Health Inspector.*

C. E. PEARSON, *Assistant Port Health Inspector.*

TOWN HALL,

WORKINGTON,

February, 1950.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Workington  
Port Health Authority.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report for the year 1950.

The report has been prepared on the lines required by Memorandum 302/S.A. of the Ministry of Health, dated December, 1946.

1. *Amount of Shipping Entering the Port  
during the Year.*

TABLE A.

			NUMBER	TONNAGE	No Inspected.		No. Reported to be Defective.	No. of Vessels on which defects were remedied.	No. of Vessels on which defects were found and reported to the Ministry of Transport Surveyors.	No. of Vessels reported as having, or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
					By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Port Health Inspector				
Foreign	{	Steamers ...	133	183675	22	133	36	36	...	1
		Motor ...	23	21601	12	23	3	3	...	...
		Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fishing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Foreign ...			156	205276	34	156	39	39	...	1
Coastwise	{	Steamers ...	274	60636	...	122	23	23	...	...
		Motor ..	50	10232	...	29	2	2	...	...
		Sailing ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Fishing ...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total Coastwise ...			324	70868	...	151	25	25	...	...
Total Foreign and Coastwise ...			480	276144	34	307	64	64	...	1



## 2. *Character and Trade of the Port.*

### (a) *Passenger Traffic during the Year.*

Inwards 3. Outwards Nil.

### (b) *Cargo Traffic.*—The chief import was iron ore and the chief exports were rails, fish-plates, steel sleepers, pitch and coal.

### (c) *Foreign Ports from which vessels arrive.*

Spain—Almeria, Aguilas, Bilbao, Hornillo, Seville.

Norway—Narvik.

Sweden—Oxelösund.

Egypt—Abu-Zenima.

North Africa—Algiers, Bona, Melilla, Port Romaine.

Netherlands—Ymuiden.

Sierra Leone—Pepel.

Iceland—Vestmannaeyri.

## 3. *Water Supply.*

The Port receives the same water supply as the Borough of Workington, and vessels are supplied from hydrants situated on the dock-side. The character of the water is 1.25 degrees of hardness and is of exceptional purity, proved by chemical and bacteriological examination several times during the year.

Notices were given the Masters of four vessels to clean out water storage tanks.

## 4. *Port Health Regulations, 1933 and 1945.*

The Regulations continue to work smoothly, and the arrangements were fully described in my Annual Report for 1946.

The following 32 cases of sickness or injury were reported on vessels entering the Port:—Pneumonia 2 cases (1 fatal); Scabies 2 cases; Sciatica 1 case; Septic throat 1 case; Injuries 5 cases; Abscess 1 case; Kidney trouble 1 case; Stomach trouble 3 cases; Venereal Disease 15 cases; Acute Poliomyelitis 1 case.

The case of Acute Poliomyelitis occurred on a British vessel from Almeria. When the vessel docked the crew of 38 were well, but the following day the Chief Officer (34 years) was confined to bed with a chill. The next day paralysis of the left leg was observed, and the patient removed to the Isolation Hospital for observation. Acute Poliomyelitis was confirmed by the Pathological Laboratory, and the patient died within 36 hours of admittance to Hospital. Full enquiries were made, but no definite source of infection could be found. The patient had not been ashore at Workington, and there were no cases in the town. The vessel left Almeria on the 19th October, and docked at Workington on the 28th. Severe gales had been encountered during the voyage.

One notice was issued in pursuance of the Parrots (Prohibition of Import) Regulations in respect of two budgerigars.

TABLE C.

Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of Vessels concerned	Average Number of cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	1	1	..

TABLE D.

Cases of infectious sickness occurring on vessels during the voyage, but disposed of prior to arrival.

Disease	Number of Cases during the year		Number of Vessels Concerned	Average Number of cases for previous five years
	Passengers	Crew		
Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



### 5. *Measures against Rodents.*

All ships entering the Port are examined for evidence of rats. Where rat indications are discovered trapping and baiting are carried out. The harbour, buildings, breakwater and foreshore are periodically inspected. The risk of serious infestation is considerably minimised as iron ore is the chief import.

During the early part of the year the Dock Canteen was rat proofed, and the drainage, together with the drainage from the Dock sanitary conveniences, was renewed. Since then no complaints have been received of rats.

In accordance with Article 28 of the International Sanitary Convention of Paris, 1926, one deratisation certificate and twenty-two exemption certificates were issued during the year. One vessel was fumigated with hydrogen cyanide gas to eliminate rats.

TABLE E.

*Rats destroyed during the Year.*

(1) *On Vessels.*

[illegible]

TABLE F.

(2) *In Docks, Quays, Wharves and Warehouses.*

[illegible]

TABLE G.

Measures of Rat Destruction on Plague "infected" or "suspected" Vessels or Vessels from Plague infected Ports arriving in the Port during the Year.

Total number of such Vessels arriving	Number of such Vessels fumigated by SO <sub>2</sub>	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels fumigated by HCN	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels on which trapping etc. were employed	Number of Rats killed	Number of such Vessels on which measures of Rat destruction were not carried out
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Nil	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

TABLE H.

Deratisation Certificates and Deratisation Exemption Certificates issued during the Year.

Net Tonnage	Number of Ships	Number of Deratisation Certificates Issued					No. of Deratisation Exemption Certificates Issued	Total Certificates Issued
		After fumigation with			After Trapping, etc.	Total		
		HCN.	Sulphur	HCN. & Sulphur				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7		9
Ships up to 300 tons	...							3
" from 301 tons to 1,000 tons	3							19
" from 1,001 tons to 3,000 tons	19	1	...	...	...	1		1
" from 3,001 tons to 10,000 tons	1							
" over 10,000	...							
Total	23	1	...	...	...	1	22	23

6. *Hygiene of Crews' Spaces.**Classification of Nuisances.*

Nationality of vessel.	Number inspected during the year.	Defects of original construction.	Structural defects through wear and tear.	Dirt, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.
British ... ..	225	—	34	22
Other Nations ...	82	—	3	8

During the year 64 informal or verbal notices were served dealing with 67 nuisances, viz. :—

*Verminous quarters .....	11
Dirty quarters .....	14
Choked sink waste pipes .....	2
Choked scuppers .....	2
Lack of heating in accommodation .....	1
Defective sanitary fittings .....	12
Dirty sanitary fittings .....	14
Defective port glasses .....	5
Defective skylights .....	1
Defective heating apparatus .....	1
Accommodation requiring painting .....	4

\* (Verminous quarters treated with D.D.T. insecticide).

7. *Food Inspection.*

No foodstuffs have been imported or exported during the year.

*General.*

The foreshore has been periodically inspected during the year, and the carcasses of 3 sheep, 4 dogs, 4 porpoises and 1 shark were disposed of.

I must again record my appreciation to various officials who have assisted in the smooth working of the various Regulations during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ROBERT W. MACPHERSON, M.D., D.P.H.,  
*Port Medical Officer.*





